

Appl. No. : 09/878,719
Filed : June 11, 2001

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants and Applicants' counsel would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy shown Applicants' attorney at the personal interview of July 17, 2007.

Attendees, Date and Type of Interview

The interview was conducted on July 17, 2007, and attended by Applicants' attorney, Edward A. Schlatter, and Examiner Anthony D. Barfield.

Exhibits and/or Demonstrations

Not applicable.

Identification of Claims Discussed

Claim 25 was discussed.

Identification of Prior Art Discussed

U.S. Patent No. 594,451 to Wheeler ("Wheeler") was discussed.

Proposed Amendments

The Examiner suggested that Applicants recite additional structural limitations in Claim 25.

Principal Arguments and Other Matters

Applicants' attorney agreed to amend Claim 25 in an attempt to place the application in condition for allowance.

Results of Interview

No agreement with respect to the claims was reached during the Personal Interview.

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REMARKS

This response is being filed in response to the Office Action. Claims 25 and 26 were pending in this application. Claims 1 through 24 were previously canceled. Claim 25 is amended herein. Claim 26 is canceled herein. Accordingly, Claim 25 is presented for further consideration.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claim 26 is canceled herein. Therefore, this rejection is now moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wheeler. Applicants disagree with the Examiner's rejection of Claim 25, and Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of this claim. However, in order to expedite allowance of this application, Claim 25 is amended herein. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the prior rejection of Claim 25 is now moot.

Related Applications

Applicants draw the Examiner's attention to four U.S. non-provisional patent applications that are in the same patent family as the present application. Two of these applications, Application Nos. 09/452,546 and 09/583,348, have issued as U.S. Patent Nos. 6,106,059 and 6,244,655, respectively. The other two applications, Application Nos. 09/172,738 and 11/417,499, have become abandoned. All four of these applications are owned by the assignee of the present application.

The file histories of these four applications may contain office actions, office communications, amendments, attorney arguments, declarations, allowed claims or indications of allowable subject matter, terminal disclaimers, cited references or other materials that the Examiner may consider to be relevant and/or material to the present application. Applicants understand that the Examiner has access to these files on a continuing basis, including any present or future office actions, office communications, amendments, attorney arguments,

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declarations, allowed claims or indications of allowable subject matter, terminal disclaimers, cited references or other materials, for review if the Examiner believes these documents are in anyway relevant and/or material to the examination of the present applications. If, however, the Examiner does not have access to these files or would like Applicants to provide copies of any particular documents in these related applications, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the below listed phone number or at the address of record.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

By submitting this response, Applicants understand that reviewers of this application or any parent or child application or related prosecution history will not reasonably infer that the Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application. However, in the event that such reviewers have a different understanding of this response, Applicants wish to note the following. Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue, at a later date, any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution.

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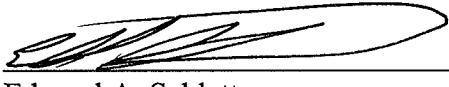
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in light of the amendments and the above remarks.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: October 23, 2007 By: 
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